

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of:

M. OHKATA et al.

Art Unit: 1724

Application Number: 09/717,512

Examiner: C. Barry

Filed: November 22, 2000

Attorney Dkt. No.: 107350-00003

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PROCESSING ORGANIC
CHLORINE COMPOUNDS

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Date: June 5, 2002

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This paper is filed in response to the Office Action dated December 5, 2001, in connection with the above-identified patent application. The period for responding is extended by the attached petition. Applicants respectfully request entry of the following amendments without prejudice.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 9, 10, 12 and 13 as follows. Attached is a marked-up copy showing changes to the claims.

1. (Amended) A method of processing an organic chlorine compound for decomposing and eliminating the organic chlorine compound in an object to be processed,

said method comprising a biological treatment process of causing a first microorganic body capable of oxidizing reduced nitrogen to come into contact with said object to be